

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 (ISO) W

----- 119428

R 091739Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1094

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR

SUBJECT: CGIL RELATIONS WITH ETUC AND WFTU

1. SUMMARY: CGIL LEADER TELLS QUAI OFFICIAL THAT
CGIL IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN ETUC AND CONSIDERS
WFTU AN INSTRUMENT OF USSR PROPAGANDA. CONVERSATION
REVEALED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CGIL-PCI AND CGT-PCF
ARE FUNDAMENTAL. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THEY ARE
TACTICAL OR GO BEYOND TO TOUCH UPON DEFINITION OF
SOCIALIST SOCIETY AND CONCEPT OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

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2. QUAI OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGABLE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL LABOR LUNCHD RCENTLY IN GENEVA WITH ROBERTO SCALIA, HEAD OF CGIL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. FRANKNESS OF CONVERSATION AND CONTENT OF SCALIA'S REMARKS SEEM TO HAVE REMOVED LAST DOUBTS QUAI OFFICIAL HAD ABOUT EXISTENCE OF UNBRIDGEABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CGT AND CGIL AND EVEN MORE SO BETWEEN PCF AND PCI. THE GIST OF SCALIA'S COMMENTS AS RELATED BY SOURCE FOLLOWS:

(A) CGIL NO LONGER HAS ANY INTEREST IN WFTU BECAUSE IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS IT BECAME ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AN INSTRUMENT OF USSR PROPAGANDA. IT IS NOT ACCIDENTIAL THAT THE ONLY SENIOR WFTU STAFF MEMBER WHO IS RUSSIAN IS THE HEAD OF THE PROPAGANDA BUREAU.

(B) IN CONTRAST CGIL IS GENUINELY INTERESTED IN ETUC AND ITS POTENTIAL FOR A TRULY TRADE UNION ACTIVITY IN THE CONTEXT OF WEST EUROPEAN ECONOMY AND COMMON MARKET INSTITUTIONS.

(C) ACCORDINGLY, CGIL WILL CONTINUE TO SEND COMPETENT AND RANKING OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE IN ETUC MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE A REAL CONTRIBUTION WHILE ABIDING BY ETUC'S DEMOCRATIC RULES.

(D) CGIL WILL NEVER ACCEPT CGT'S ADMISSION TO THE ETUC ON ANY OTHER CONDITIONS THAN THOSE WHICH CGIL HAD TO MEET IN APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP, I.E., LOOSENING OF RELATIONS WITH WFTU. THIS "IS A QUESTION OF HONOR FOR CGIL" AND THE MAJORITY OF ETUC MEMBERS ARE WELL AWARE OF IT. THE BRITISH TUC AND ONE OR TWO SCANDINAVIAN UNIONS ARE GIVING CGIL CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN THIS CONNECTION BUT CGIL IS COUNTING ON DGB AND FORCE OUVRIERE TO HOLD THE LINE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST CGT ADMISSION INTO ETUC.

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(E) THE HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES OF WESTERN EUROPE HAVE BECOME EXTREMELY COMPLEX, SO MUCH SO AS TO DEFY A RIGID MARXIST ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY FOR ACTION. CIVIL LIBERTIES AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL INGREDIENTS OF WE SOCIETIES THAT NO ONE SHOULD IGNORE, LET ALONE TINKER WITH.

(F) THIS EXPLAINS PCI ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF A PLURALISTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM AND PROGRESS TOWARDS SOCIALISM THROUGH A MAJORITY RULE.

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(G) PCF IS 20 YEARS BEHIND TIMES AND DESPITE PROFESSIONS TO THE CONTRARY IT HAS DRAWN NO LESSONS FROM THE STALINIST EXPERIENCE. PCI AND PCF NO LONGER SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE AND THIS GOES ALSO FOR CGT-CGIL. AS A RESULT CGIL INTENDS TO SEND A LOW-RANKING DELEGATE TO ATTEND THE CGT CONGRESS. (COMMENT: INDEED THE CGIL DELEGATE WAS A CERTAIN GINO GUERRA UNKNOWN TO THE CGT LEADERS WHO, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, GOT THE CGIL MESSAGE.)

(H) THE IDEAL POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR FRANCE WOULD BE A SITUATION WHERE GISCARD WAS PRESIDENT AND MITTERRAND THE PRIME MINISTER WITH OR WITHOUT PCF PARTICIPATION.

WHEN SOURCE, WHO IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE LEFT, FOUND THIS STATEMENT A BIT DIFFICULT TO TAKE SCALIA INSISTED THAT PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS AN OBJECTIVE THAT SHOULD NOT BE SACRIFICED TO ECONOMIC REFORMS.

3. COMMENT: THAT PART OF THE FOREGOING WHICH CONCERNS CGIL-ETUC RELATIONS LENDS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO BRUSSELS A-241 WHICH PROVIDED A THOUGHTFUL ASSESSMENT OF CGIL BEHAVIOR WITHIN ETUC IN THE YEAR SINCE IT BECAME A MEMBER OF IT, THEREBY BELYING THE PREDICTIONS OF THOSE IN AND OUTSIDE ETUC WHO SAW IN CGIL A SORT OF A TROJAN HORSE FOR COMMUNIST INFILTRATION.

4. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND ALSO WHY THE QUAI OFFICIAL SAW IN THE FOREGOING AN IMPRESSIVE DEMONSTRATION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEOLOGICAL AND TACTICAL DIFFERENCES THAT HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN PCF AND PCI. THE SKEPTICS, HOWEVER, WILL RIGHTFULLY PERSIST IN POSING THE QUESTION WHETHER THE PCF-PCS DIFFERENCES ARE ONLY TACTICAL AND THAT BENEATH IT ALL BOTH PARTIES SHARE THE SAME LENINIST CONCEPT OF POWER AND LENINIST RATIONALIZATION FOR HOLDING ON TO IT BY ANY MEANS ONCE POWER IS HANDED TO THEM THROUGH ELECTIONS (PCI) OR IS SEIZED THROUGH THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS (PCF).

5. HOWEVER STATEMENTS LIKE THOSE OF SCALIA (AND MANY OTHER INCLUDING PUBLIC ONES) SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PCI-PCF DIFFERENCES HAVE ASSUMED SUCH QUANTITATIVE DIMENSIONS AS TO BECOME IN MARXIST TERMS QUALITATIVE THEREBY GOING WELL BEYOND TACTICS TO IMPLY A REDEFINITION OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY AND THE RECOGNITION OF SEVERE LIMITATIONS IN ANY ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AS A PERPETUAL SOURCE OF LEGITIMACY. MORE ANOTHER TIME.

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